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## THE PEACE REIGN.

JAMES THOMSON.

O first of human blessings and supreme !  
 Fair Peace ! how lovely, how delightful thou !  
 By whose wide tie the kindred sons of men  
 Like brothers live, in amity combined  
 And unsuspecting faith ; while honest toil  
 Gives every joy, and to those joys a right  
 Which idle, barbarous rapine but usurps.  
 Pure is thy reign ; when, unaccursed by blood,  
 Naught, save the sweetness of indulgent showers,  
 Trickling, distils into the verdant glebe ;  
 Instead of mangled carcasses, sad scene,  
 When the blithe sheaves lie scattered o'er the field ;  
 When only shining shares, the crooked knife,  
 And hooks imprint the vegetable wound ;  
 When the land blushes with the rose alone,  
 The falling fruitage and the bleeding vine.  
 O Peace, thou source and soul of social life ;  
 Beneath whose calm inspiring influence  
 Science his views enlarges, Art refines,  
 And swelling Commerce opens all her ports ;  
 Blessed be the man divine who gives us thee !  
 Who bids the trumpet hush his horrid clang,  
 Nor blow the giddy nations into rage ;  
 Who sheathes the murderous blade ; the deadly gun  
 Into the well-piled armory returns ;  
 And, every vigor from the work of death  
 To grateful industry converting, makes  
 The country flourish and the city smile.  
 Unviolated, him the virgin sings,  
 And him the smiling mother to her train.  
 Of him the shepherd in the peaceful dale  
 Chants ; and, the treasures of his labor sure,  
 The husbandman of him, as at the plow  
 Or team he toils. With him the sailor soothes,  
 Beneath the trembling moon, the midnight wave ;  
 And the full city, warm, from street to street  
 And shop to shop responsive, rings of him.  
 Nor joys one land alone ; his praise extends  
 Far as the sun rolls the diffusive day ;  
 Far as the breeze can bear the gifts of peace,  
 Till all the happy nations catch the song.

THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND  
ARMAMENTS.

At Edinburgh on June 4, 1889, at the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, resolved :

“Whereas, the increase of the armaments of Europe is exhausting the resources of the nations and imperilling their peace, and is contrary to the principles and hostile to the interests of Christianity, the General Assembly resolve to petition Parliament to consider what can be done to remove or lessen this great evil, and to promote arbitration in the quarrels of nations ; and further, the Assembly, recognizing the solidarity of the Church of Christ, resolve, as far as may be found practicable, to communicate with other churches at home and abroad, with the view of interesting them in this cause, and entreating them to do what may be in their power to further the peace of the world, and appoint the following committee to draw up both a petition to Parliament and a letter to the Church of Christ, in terms of this resolution : —Dr. Walter C. Smith, Professor Simpson, Mr. James MacDonald and the Clerk.”

The same General Assembly have also through their Moderator, Rev. D. Laird, issued the following letter to the Churches :

“We offer no apology for venturing to address you, at present, on a matter which we feel sure is as deeply interesting to you as it is to us.

“Of late years we have noted with grave anxiety the growth of vast and burdensome armaments in every country of Europe, not excepting our own, and the frequent alarms of coming war, and constant feeling of insecurity, caused by those terrible preparations. Therefore it has seemed not unmeet to appeal to you, and to all the Churches of Christ, in a spirit of brotherly love to unite with us in prayer to the common Father, that He would be pleased to avert those apprehended evils ; and to beseech you also to do what in you lies to bring about a mutual reduction of those Armaments, which are everywhere more than the burdened peoples are able to bear.

“It is not for us to say what measures, if any, it may be in your power to take for this end, beyond bringing it under the notice of that branch of the Church, over which your influence or authority extends. But we feel assured that you are not less desirous than we are ‘to undo heavy burdens,’ and to realize the Gospel hope of ‘Peace on earth ;’ and that, consequently, you will not take it amiss that we have approached you with an assurance of our heartfelt sympathy, and our willingness to co-operate with you in any well-considered effort to substitute peaceful Arbitration in the quarrels of nations for the terrible gage of battle. Praying God to have you in His holy keeping, I remain,

“In Name and by Authority of the Assembly,  
 JOHN LAIRD, D. D.,  
 Moderator.”

## ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

On June 14 the visiting American Engineers were entertained by the reception committee at a banquet, which was given in the Guildhall of the city of London by the express permission of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City in Common Council assembled. The guests were received in the library by Sir John Coode. The Guildhall was decorated with trophies of American flags. Sir J. Coode presided. On the right of the chair were the United States Minister, Sir E. Thornton, Mr. Whittemore, Sir J. Fowler, Mr. A. E. Hunt, Sir D. Salomons, Professor Elihu' Thomson, Mr. Abernethy, Professor Thurston, the Dean of Westminster, Mr. Archbald, Sir G. B. Bruce, Mr. Kerchoff, Gen. Sir R. Harrison, Sir T. Chambers, Sir W. Thomson, and others.

The Chairman : It is my strong belief that one of the most potent factors in the prosperity of America has been that pure Christianity which was carried to its shores more than 200 years ago by those grand old Pilgrim Fathers, of whom it was so well written by the mother of one of their deceased vice-presidents—Mrs. Hemans :

“They have left unstained what there they found,—  
 Freedom to worship God.”

(Cheers.) Between the peoples of this country and those of the United States there existed, and let us pray God that there may ever exist, the most cordial feelings of harmony and good will. (Cheers.) Were we not all of one blood ? Had it not been well said that blood is thicker than water ? We on this side of the Atlantic designated our country as the “United Kingdom ;” our American cousins on the opposite shores had entitled theirs the “United States.” Let both so unite together and so act towards each other that they might ever live in

perfect harmony and peace; and might our descendants, with our brethren in the southern hemisphere and their descendants, unitedly fulfil the great destiny which seemed manifestly to be in store for the Anglo-Saxon race. (Cheers.)

Hon. Robert Lincoln, United States Minister, responded:

As representing his fellow-citizens, he heartily reciprocated the affection with which the Queen was regarded by all her subjects, and Americans, whether they were engineers or not, accepted the courtesies and hospitalities of that day as something far beyond any merely personal compliment. They were accepted as an earnest of the kind feeling which existed between the two countries, and which, it was hoped, might never be broken. (Cheers.) He was glad to be associated with these hospitalities, which were not extended by strangers to strangers, but were *reunions* between neighbors and friends. (Cheers.) They had been made neighbors and friends by the application of the skill and learning developed in the various branches of the profession of hosts and guests alike. These developments were every year making the world more and more one vast community. Celerity of movement, directed by electric wires and cables, facilitated the universal distribution of the products of all nations, and tied them together in the common interest of peace over all the world for all time. Engineers were doing more than diplomats to cement the common brotherhood of man.

#### THE FRANCO-GERMAN DISPUTE.

HODGSON PRATT.

Germany considers that the historic relations existing between her and France, culminating in the French demand of 1870, made it necessary for the strategic security of Germany that the latter should occupy Alsace and Lorraine in permanence; in the second place Germany avers that if, at the end of a war like the last, a treaty is signed by the two contending parties, the first principles of good faith demand that the defeated party shall accept the conditions of the treaty, not in form only, but in spirit, with a full intention of abiding by the result.

On the other hand, French people consider, I suppose, that every such treaty is liable to revision, either by consent or by a fresh war which shall cancel it. Further, they advance this argument, that the occupation of these two provinces is a standing menace to the peace and security of France; while the first law in the policy of a nation is that of self-preservation, and, also, that according to principles of universal right now recognized in this age, no people can be transferred from one sovereignty to another against its will.

Here is a brief statement of some rival claims which endanger the peace of all Europe, and tend rapidly towards the bankruptcy of the States.

It appears to me that the first duty of the Peace Societies of the world is to consider how this abiding danger can be dealt with by a joint action of the neutral States. By the neutral States I mean those outside France and Germany. I am utterly opposed to all alliance for or against either of these two States. The duty of every other State is to do its share as arbitrator in this gigantic and disastrous quarrel. Any government which departs from its neutrality in joining in an alliance with either France or Germany does a wrong, first to its own people, and secondly to Europe, by enlarging the area of the quarrel,

and, therefore, of the future war. Unless France and Germany will of themselves come to an understanding, it is the most sacred duty of all the other States to form themselves into a league of mediators in this matter. Let each of those States select its best jurists and statesmen to form a congress for the judicial consideration of this deadly conflict. Let such congress endeavor to arrive at a clear exposition of the facts and of the possible solution of the dispute, based upon justice, not only towards France and Germany, but towards the innocent and suffering populations of all the rest of Europe.

Suppose there were to arise in any community a quarrel between two families or individuals, so terrible and lasting in its bloody and destructive effects that the interest of the whole community itself was concerned in putting an end to that strife. Would they not have a moral right to do so, even if no precise legal enactment or code gave them the authority of interference? The safety of the whole community placed in peril by certain of its members gives the highest juridical right to the community over those individuals. Is not this a fair illustration of the attitude of the whole of Europe towards those two members of the European community called France and Germany?—*Concord*.

#### INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND ARBITRATIONS.

A public meeting will be held in the COLUMBUS AVENUE (UNIVERSALIST) CHURCH, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, AT 7.30 P. M.

HON. ROBERT TREAT PAINE will preside and make the opening address.

The delegates of the American Peace Society to the recent World's Peace Congress at Paris will be present and give some account of that very significant meeting. They are REV. R. B. HOWARD, REV. A. A. MINER, D. D., and MR. FRANCIS B. GILMAN. The Commissioners to the Pan-American Conference are announced to be in Boston, and will be invited to attend. *The peaceful relations of the three Americas; the coming Maritime Congress at Washington; the World's Peace Congress of 1892—the first to be held in the Western Hemisphere; the attitude and duty of the United States towards the peace of the world;* such are the vital topics to be discussed. The public are cordially invited. Per order of the Executive Committee of the American Peace Society.

EDWARD S. TOBEY, *Chairman.*

The *Universal Republic*, commenting on the call for the last annual meeting of the American Peace Society says:

“A more auspicious time for the work there has never been. Now, for the first time in the history of the race, there is something like general or popular concert of thought in favor of Disarmament and Peaceful Arbitration. It is no longer the seemingly hopeless struggle of a few lovers of their fellow-men, here and there, but the Peoples are at last being touched—the masses are at last awakening to the fact that the bereavements, heart-aches, destructions and burdens imposed upon them by and through wicked wars are wholly unnecessary, and the popular demand for the gradual reduction and final abolition of war taxes is being heard around Thrones and Senates. The Era of Universal Peace will come in with the twentieth century.”